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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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RONALD FORREST INDICTED FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING A MINOR

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Ronald C. Forrest, age 39, of Clinton, Maryland for crimes committed in connection with the interstate transportation of a minor and enticement of a minor for the purpose of producing a sexually explicit image of the minor.

The three-count indictment charges Forrest with using and enticing a minor male in or about 2000 to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct. The indictment also alleges that in or about 2000 or 2001, Forrest persuaded and enticed a minor male to travel in interstate commerce in order to produce a visual depiction of the minor male engaged in sexual activity.

The penalties for producing child pornography is not less than 15 years in prison and no more than 30 years; and for the interstate transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity is not less than 5 years in prison and no more than 30 years. The maximum penalty for enticement of a minor is 20 years in prison. Each charge carries a maximum \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed

innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Attorney's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gina L. Simms and Barbara S. Skalla.